

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

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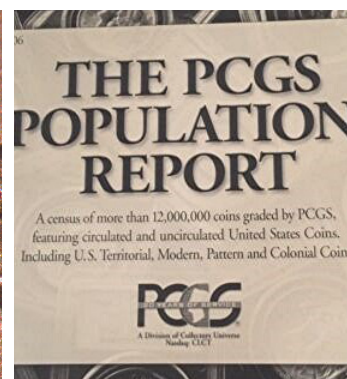
***A Cent Collection
Taken to 11
By Richard Snow***



***1856 Flying Eagle
Snow-3: MS or Proof?
By Greg Slaughter***



***The 1856 Pointed U
Obverse die
By Richard Snow***



***Statistical Estimate of
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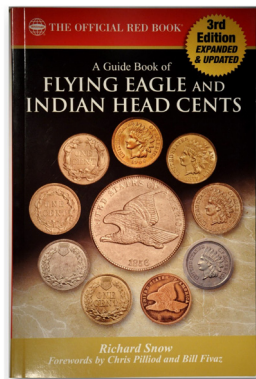
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Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

Founded 1991

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On the cover...

The 1856 Pointed U obverse die is unusual in that it struck very few coins, but with many reverse combinations, all in Proof format. Was it the Mint's designated pattern die?

Longacre's Ledger

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Editor: Rick Snow

P.O. Box 32891 Tucson, AZ 85751

(866) 323-2646

rick@indiancent.com

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Special thanks to Charmy Harker
for proofreading the articles.

The President's Letter

By Chris Pilliod

This is my 72nd President's Letter and unless you only own a handful of coins one big thing I've learned over the years is the importance of organization. Some weekends I spend more time organizing coins than buying, selling, reading-- or any of the fun stuff. I'd like to think the effort has paid off. Now if I could just get the rest of my life organized.

It took three years to notice, but two pieces that were filed literally adjacent to one another but purchased separately and fourteen years apart have a fascinating interwoven story to tell. The first piece I picked up at the 2005 ANA Convention in August of that year held in San Francisco. Fourteen years later at the PAN Show in Pittsburgh came the second. That would have been 2019, and not until this week while looking at the pieces together was I stunned to discover the two pieces held a curious tale with a close relationship. True soulmates.

It was at the ANA Convention in August of 2005 when I made the first purchase – a show I remember well. My wife's cousin and her husband lived in a beautiful neighborhood cozied in the hills of Monterey Heights, southwest of San Francisco and a few miles from downtown. They were out of town on vacation with their son, and were happy to leave a key and have a house-sitter for the week. I flew into SFO, took the BART train downtown and transferred to a bus and off I headed to the hills. And every morning I walked a few blocks through the chilly fog to the bus stop, looking forward to getting downtown where the sun would be more generous in sharing and the temperatures more friendly. After all, Mark Twain once said "The coldest winter of my life was the summer I spent in San Francisco."

It was the first day at the show where I ran into an old friend, Xan Chamberlain, a well-respected and well-known numismatist in the hobby and long-time Fly-In member. Xan lives in the Bay area and would have a career in stand-up comedy if he ever needs a back-up gig. And he loved to collect similar things as me-- errors, oddball coins, as well as exnumatica. "You bring anything interesting?" I quizzed after our salutations subsided.

And out came a small box, a gathering of odd ball coins and exnumatic items. They ran the gambit from damaged coins to nice genuine errors. A few counterfeit pieces



Shown is a photo of part of the organization for the coins I developed for my collection in the Safety Deposit Boxes. The die and the cent highlighted in this presidents letter spent three years literally adjacent to each other in the counterfeit box before a recent examination revealed the coin to actually be a product of the die.

spiced up the cache. But one item especially caught my eye. Being a metallurgist I immediately recognized it as a die, one used to fabricate 1877 Indian cents.

"I'll be damned," I offered. Xan had it labeled as "1877 Mold". Now just a little break for an education of the non-metallurgists here. A mold is used to pour liquid metal in, which is how foundries and metal casting facilities operate. A die is used to strike metals at room temperature, which is what stamping plants, metal fabrication shops and so on do. What's the difference between a stamping plant and a forging

shop? They both use die steels to form solid metals, but stamping plants operate at room temperature while forging occurs at elevated temperatures. Molds are never made from carbon steel, which this obviously was.

So, I assembled a pile of various items and we hashed out a deal, all the while Xan, humoring me with his quips. "Quite the shtick you are" I let him know.

At some point in time after I got back to Pennsylvania, I ran a chemistry with an X-Ray and confirmed it was steel. The downside with performing X-Ray analysis (XRF or X-Ray fluorescence) is it does not measure carbon accurately. Carbon is the most critical ingredient of die and mild steels. It is most accurately measured destructively, employing a combustion method commonly referred to in the industry as "LECO", after the manufacturer of the equipment. Although a carbon measurement was not taken, the measured hardness showed a Rockwell-C hardness of 60.5 Rc. This is extremely hard and can only be achieved with elevated carbon levels. In fact the operating hardness of die steels at the Mint today is 58 Rc. It confirms it was more than adequately strong enough for striking coins.

Fast forward fourteen years to the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists Show in Pittsburgh.



The die used to strike the coin is shown next to the counterfeit piece here. The steel is of similar metallurgical properties as today's



Note the similarities between the shape of the date and the digits between the die and the counterfeit piece. Especially note the serifs of the 7's.

There I met an old-time dealer friend, John Bachman. I'd purchased a lot of coins off John over the years, and he knew I was a metallurgist with an eye for oddball stuff, including counterfeits. If he ever came across one, he'd just hand it over, not wanting anything for it. In this case it was a nice looking 1877 Indian Cent. It was obvious it was counterfeit. Under examination the date exhibited a noted curvature; not like genuine 1877's whose date is flat. In addition the reverse exhibited a Bold "N." The proper reverse has a Shallow "N" as seen on all genuine business strike issues.

That was in 2019, and I placed it in my organized safety deposit box—not realizing it was snuggled it right next to the die that struck it! The die had rested there since that trip to San Francisco in 2005 waiting for its progeny. My organization was great, they were adjacent to each other but I just never noticed. While going through the box last week, with the advantage of a little more experience and savviness, I put the two adjacent to each other, and grabbed a loupe... "I'll be damned... this coin was struck from this die!!!!"

A few critical diagnostics confirm the piece was struck from these dies. Note the perfect match of the curvature of the digits in the date. As mentioned, on genuine 1877's the date is flat with no curvature whatsoever. In addition the serifs on the top of the 7's are different between the two. The first "7" has a thin pointed serif with a flare trumpeting to the northeast. The second is thicker and more blunt.

Finally, note the break in the headband below the "L" in Liberty. The area is weak and lacking of detail. The culprit responsible was also street smart. After striking the coins he imparted some circulation to the pieces, perhaps by tumbling the coins. And then chemically restored each piece to a nice chocolate brown. The Bachman piece grades a choice Very Fine. These pieces were meant to deceive the collector and make a ton of money.

So with all the attention made to curating the coin why wasn't more attention paid to the date? After all the date is a quick and dead giveaway to the pieces lack of authenticity.

The answer lies in how the die was made. The die was manufactured by some type of transfer method. Perhaps spark erosion from a genuine common date or actual Janvier-type transfer. A likely host piece may be a genuine 1870 Indian Cent, whose date exhibits a very similar curvature. While not a common issue it is much less expensive than a genuine 1877 in higher grade. Not only is the curvature of both similar the base of the "1" and how wide and thin matches very closely. In either case either the entire date or portions of the date were removed from the genuine piece prior to transferring to the die steel.

Then the only work left for the craftsman was hand engraving the last two digits into the die. It is possible if an 1870 coin was employed as the host he just needed to touch up the first "7" before carving out the second "7". To keep the flow of date he carved the last two 7's with a curve.



Note the similar weakness in the headband below the "LI" of LIBERTY between the die and the coin.

Since the culprit had to also fabricate a reverse die, as well as a collar how do he do here? The edge of the coin was struck in a collar and I could not detect any glaring error other than it appeared more like a proof edge—smooth and sharp. His trail of forensic missteps continued on the reverse as well. The reverse style he used is a “Bold N” seen only on Proof issues in 1877. Circulated proofs in VF are the rare exception. Indeed ANY 1877 with a Bold “N” reverse should be looked upon with suspicion.

Finally the perpetrator needed to come up with planchets as feedstock for his endeavor, and here the main question is did he employ the proper copper alloy used during the striking of Indian cents. Up until about 1910 the Mint employed a copper alloy of 95% copper + 2.5% tin + 2.5% zinc. Upon analysis this piece has a composition within Mint standards, so the culprit was careful in alloy selection. The Bay Area counterfeiter, notorious for striking key date Indian Cents from transfer dies did not employ the proper Mint bronze chemistry, and as such this is likely not the work of the Bay Area Bandit.

If I had to guess, I believe this die was fabricated in the 1950's or 1960's with unquestionably some type of a transfer process. And obviously was designed to produce coins to fool the collector and not as spending change. And even though it is counterfeit it offers an extremely rare occasion for a collector to hold both a coin and the die it was struck from in their hand at the same time.

When I reached out to him regarding this article Xan did indeed recall the subject 1877 die. In fact he recalled purchasing them but did not remember the exact provenance. Perhaps he recalled “I sniped them on eBay in their early Wild West years. When you could find anything.”

I recalled seeing his other dies on that day in San Francisco, above and beyond the 1877 Indian cent die, but it was the only one I got. I have perhaps a dozen counterfeit 1877 Indian Cents in my bogus files, but none with a fascinating story as this. The moral of the story??? Keep well organized.. in numismatics and life!



A sideview of the die with coin. I was surprised at how small the die was compared to genuine dies employed at the Mint.



The die may well have been made from transferring the image of a genuine 1870 Indian Cent and engraving the 7's. Note the similarities to the curvature, size and shape of the digits.

*A Cent Collection Taken to 11.
The “Buck” Burgess Jr. Collection
By Richard Snow*

The collection of “Buck” Burgess Jr. is above average for a mint state set of Flying Eagle, Indian and Lincoln cents. Where Buck’s collection shines is in his presentation. While most collectors are content to have a list of their coins and maybe make a display for a coin show, Buck has taken his collection to 11!

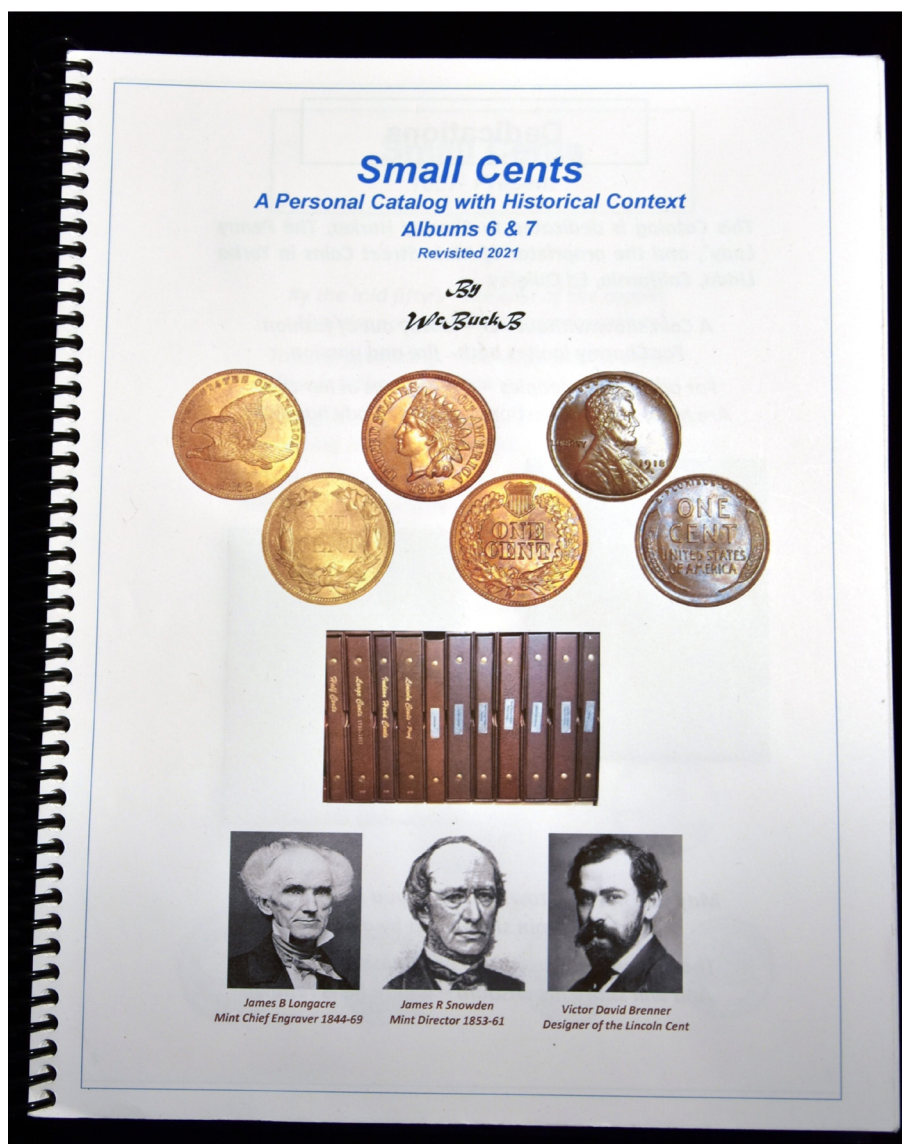
There are set registries offered by the grading services which you can upload images of your coins and even create a virtual bookshelf album for your collection. Instead of this, Buck has created a whole book around his collection. There are volumes of other coins given similar treatment so his Flying Eagle and Indian set is Volume 6 and his Lincoln cent set is Volume 7.

Buck gives a historical account of the times that these coins were produced in. Politics, issues,



Buck Burgess’ collection takes it to 11

events, statehoods, monetary policy, entertainment and trivia are included in his presentation. Here are a few pages from his presentation:



Indian Head Cents

1860 Oak Wreath with Shield "Broad Bust" Indian Head Cent (copper-nickel)



Provenance: August 2011, North County Coin Show, *The Penny Lady*®, Charmy Harker

Notes: *PCGS MS63. Nicely struck with typical copper-nickel mint luster. A series of tiny nicks scattered throughout the obverse fields. While barely detectable, they clearly lowered the slab grade. The reverse has a more golden luster than the obverse. A very nice copper-nickel cent for the grade.*

Numismatic comments: Mintage 19,566,000. Although the metal content would change, this became the standard design for the rest of the Indianhead series. Mint Director James Snowden described the new Indian Head cent motif as "an Indian head with a falling crown of feathers." Chief Engraver, James Longacre, said that the "obverse presents an ideal head of America - the drooping plumes of the North American Indian give it the character of North America..." He admitted that he used no model for the figure other than the "classical profiles on ancient sculptures." Based on these quotes, the feathered headdress was clearly intended to be that of an Indian. Yet, it seems rather odd that a headdress of a warrior, a most masculine attribute, would be placed on the head of a woman. The 1860 mintage had two major varieties - the Broad Bust (most common - seen here) and the Pointed Bust. This variety is relatively common in all grades but finding one with nice color is a challenge.

1860 Highlights: The Pony Express had its first run from St. Louis, Missouri to Sacramento, California. Texas Rangers fought and defeated Comanche Indians at the Battle of Peace River and recaptured Cindy Parker returning her to her family after 24 years of captivity. The first oil well was drilled in Titusville, Pennsylvania discovering oil only 60 feet down. Abraham Lincoln won the Presidency over three other candidates. South Carolina seceded from the Union soon thereafter.

(right) Pony Express Help
Wanted ad. (below) Pony
Express rider



HN: *The Pony Express was a service that delivered mail, messages, and newspapers using relays of horse mounted riders that operated from April 1860 to October 1861 between Missouri and California. Although it operated for only 18 months, it became the West's most direct means of east-west communication before the transcontinental telegraph was completed. It was romanticized and became an important part of the lore of the American West.*

Sources: Wikipedia; *The Red Book- Flying Eagle & Indian Head Cents*, by Rick Snow; PCGS Coin Facts; Library of Congress

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Indian Head Cents

1864 "L on Ribbon" Indian Head Cent (bronze)



"L" on ribbon



Re-punched "8"



Provenance: August 2012, *The Penny Lady**, Charmy Harker

Notes: PCGS MS64 RB. Lots going on with this one! Brilliant golden-copper-brown and tan. Re-punched 8 variety (upper right). Weakly struck in three top feathers and the A in "STATES." There is some additional repunching around the obverse legends. Die state A with knob on dentil below 4 in date. Reverse die clash of the obverse portrait. Strong look at the L (upper left). On top of all that – rim cuds K7-9 reverse. The discoloration just above the "L" on the ribbon is more pronounced in the photos than in hand.

Numismatic comments: Bronze with L Mintage est. 5,000,000. The "L" can be found on all Indian Head cents going forward. Engraver, James Longacre, added his initial to the lower ribbon between the last feather and the hair curl behind the neck. Estimates of the mintage of this variety is around 10-12% of the 1864 bronze cents struck, making it somewhat of a rarity. Rare or not, its popularity with collectors makes it one of the more challenging and expensive Indian Heads. Most are well worn making it even more challenging to find in higher grades.

HN: The Coinage Act of 1864 was passed in April 1864. The law changed the composition of the one-cent coin and authorized the minting of the two-cent coin. The Director of the Mint developed the designs for these coins for final approval by the Secretary of the Treasury. The new law also mandated "In God We Trust" to appear for the first time on the 1864 two-cent coin. An Act of Congress, passed in March 1865, allowed the Mint director, with the Secretary's approval, to place the phrase on all gold and silver coins that "shall admit the inscription thereon." All currency was printed and minted with the new motto henceforth unless grandfathered in such as the Indian Head cent. In 1956, "In God We Trust" replaced "E Pluribus Unum," as the official motto of the United States.



Two Cent obverse



Lincoln Memorial Cent reverse

E Pluribus Unum is Latin for "out of many, one." It was used on coinage to symbolize that the United States was formed as a cohesive single nation as the result of the thirteen smaller colonies working together. Either, *In God We Trust*, or *E Pluribus Unum*, or both can be found on most federal coinage. Yet, the Indian Head cent design was never changed to include either national motto.

Sources: Wikipedia; The History Place; *The Red Book- Flying Eagle & Indian Head Cents*, by Rick Snow.

Indian Head Cents

1874 Indian Head Cent



Provenance: July 2012, Ontario Coin Show, *The Penny Lady**, Charmy Harker

Notes: PCGS MS64 RB. Speckled brown and dark brown with light red-orange faded mint color all blend for a beautiful appearance. Decent strike with some weakness in feather tips. Die chip on the jaw that looks like a lump identifies this cent. Die crack through the reverse shield and the C in CENT. This cent is nowhere near as streaky as most seen from this year.

Numismatic comments: Mintage 14,187,500. Mintage increased over the previous year again. It is likely that much of the mintage was made from the base metal of bronze cents melted under the *Redemption Act* of 1871. Most are well struck but are often streaky due to various alloy mixes.

1874 Highlights: Democrats regained the majority in the House of Representative for the first time since 1860 in off-year elections. Harper's Weekly magazine published a political cartoon depicting an elephant as a symbol for the Republican Party. Barbed wire was patented. The Greenback political party (AKA National Independent Party) primarily made up of farmers hurt by the *Panic of 1873* was established.

HN: The *Greenback Party* 1874-1889 was established soon after the *Panic of 1873*. It was named for the non-gold backed paper currency known as "Greenbacks" that were issued during and after the Civil War. The Party resulted from an alliance of organized labor and reform-minded farmers intent on challenging the pro-big business Republican Party that dominated American politics during Reconstruction. Its platform was based on an anti-monopoly and anti-hard money ideology. Members favored "cheap" money greenbacks in circulation. Farmers supported the party because circulating greenbacks raised the prices of their crops. Although the party had a significant impact in a few states and did get several House members elected, its presidential candidates were only garnered 2% or less in three presidential elections.



Greenback Party Poster

Sources: Wikipedia, History.com, *The Red Book- Flying Eagle & Indian Head Cents*, by Rick Snow

Indian Head Cents

1897 Indian Head Cent



Provenance: March 2011, Buena Park Coin Show, *The Penny Lady*®, Charmy Harker

Notes: MS62 BN. Purchased raw. Lustrous shades of bright orange and yellow-gold with brown and tan highlights on the obverse. Reverse is glossy satin tan and brown. Some darker spotting in the obverse field by the neck distract from a beautify toned cent. Uncirculated but not a very high grade. Nevertheless, nice!

Numismatic comments: Mintage 50,464,392. The mintage continued increasing reflecting an improving economy bolstered by the gold strikes in Colorado and Alaska. Most of these cents stayed in circulation for a long time but can easily be found in all grades.

1897 Highlights: The first Boston Marathon was held. Oil was discovered in Oklahoma on Indian lands. The first subway in North America opened in Boston. The Library of Congress opened. Republican, William McKinley, was sworn in as the 25th President.

HN: *The Gay Nineties* was the nostalgic term given to the 1890's. It came into wide use around the Great Depression of the 1930's when many Americans longed for the comfortable and pleasant "good ole days" full of merriment and optimism. The phrase used the original meaning of the word gay, meaning happy. This decade was remembered as the pre-income tax period of wealth, opulent mansions, and the "society set." Ads in magazines of fashionable women dressed in the *Gibson Girl* style re-surfaced as other pleasant memories such as charming gas lights, ice cream parlors, vaudeville shows, romanticism, and the 5¢ motion picture Nickelodeons.



(left) "The Gibson Girls" by illustrator Charles Dana Gibson created the look for the supposedly ideal young woman of the turn of the last century, (center) a romantic Victorian scene, and (right) a nostalgic Coca Cola ad of the time.

Sources: Wikipedia; History.com; Pinterest images; *The Red Book- Flying Eagle & Indian Head Cents*, by Rick Snow

Indian Head Cents

1908-S Indian Head Cent



Provenance: May 2013, *The Penny Lady*®, Charmy Harker

Notes: PCGS MS64 BN. Mostly brown with faded mint luster and reddish-yellow-orange color. Cents from this mint often have a yellowish hue as seen here. The strike is somewhat weak in the feathers. Still, a very nice 1908-S.

Numismatic comments: Mintage 1,115,000. The 1908-S was the first cent minted for circulation that was not from the Philadelphia Mint. It is the third rarest of the series. Note on the reverse the "S" mint mark below and slightly to the right at the bottom of the bow. The entire mintage was struck on presses used for silver coinage since the new cent dies had not yet been delivered.

HN: The First San Francisco Mint. Soon after gold was discovered in California, it became clear that a branch mint was needed in the West. Travel from California to New Orleans and/or Philadelphia at the time took months making it unsafe and totally impractical to transport money. Major quantities of gold were readily available and silver from the Nevada Comstock lode discovery would be soon thereafter. The huge influx of people with the corresponding growth of commerce created a need for coinage. Yet, it took time for a reluctant Congress still reeling from the failures of two previous branch mints (Dahlgonega, Georgia & Charlotte, North Carolina) to act and authorize the building of another branch. California statehood helped move the process along and, by 1854, a small mint began operations in San Francisco. Only gold and silver coins were minted. Most transactions in the state were rounded off to the nearest 5 cents. The first San Francisco Mint was cramped and poorly ventilated measuring only 60' feet square at first. It was soon expanded by 20' in one direction but within 20 years, this site was abandoned in favor of a much larger facility. The original San Francisco Mint remained intact until 1875, when it was torn down to make room for a new Treasury building.



(right) The first San Francisco Mint (Public domain image)

Sources: Wikipedia; US Coin Values; *History of the U.S. Mint*, by David Lange; *The Red Book- Flying Eagle & Indian Head Cents*, by Rick Snow

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*The book is offered by W.C. "Buck" Burgess, Jr. at
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OK, you may be asking, why not just make 10 the highest and set the goal there.

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“The Secrets of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents”
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on the ANA eLearning Channel

Rick Snow’s seminar all about Flying Eagle and Indian cents is now live on the American Numismatic Association’s You Tube channel.

The two-hour talk covers history, grading, varieties, problem coins and counterfeits. Also covered within these topics are patterns and proofs.

A link can be found at Rick’s website:

www.indiancent.com



The back issues of the Longacre’s Ledger are now accessible on the Newman Numismatic Portal.

The site is managed by the Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Access is free to all and the files can be viewed at the following link:

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/521577>

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1856 Flying Eagle Snow-3: MS or Proof?

Greg Slaughter

Previous editions of this journal have covered extensively the fact that many 1856 Flying Eagles have been misattributed: Proofs have been misattributed as MS and MS coins have been misattributed as Proofs. For the Snow-3 in particular the experts often disagree whether one is Proof or MS. Part of the problem is that Third-Party Graders have relied on diagnostics which are unreliable. Here we systematically evaluate several of these diagnostics, determine which of them are unreliable, and with the remaining diagnostics arrive at a reliable means of visually determining whether a Snow-3 is MS or Proof. In fact, as it turns out, the diagnostics we ultimately find reliable will allow someone to determine MS or Proof for any die pair of 1856 Flying Eagle, not just Snow-3.

Coins examined for this study

We examined 44 Snow-3s for which photos from certs and/or auctions, along with auction descriptions, are readily available, and we considered the following diagnostics:

- Mirrored fields
- Wire rims
- Strike doubling
- Strike weakness

The results of this study are summarized in the table at the end of this article. We have made this table available online at the following URL so that readers may make use of the hyperlinks in that table that reference certs and auctions:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8dt2m2>

Let's now examine the various diagnostics and eliminate the ones that are unreliable.

Ignore the Mirrors!

It is perhaps tempting for someone with limited knowledge of the 1856 Flying Eagle to see a coin with mirrored fields and jump to the conclusion that it must be a Proof. In fact, it became quite clear in the course of this study that PCGS must have fixated on mirrors, jumping to the conclusion that many Snow-3s were

Proofs, seemingly ignoring compelling evidence that these coins were actually MS coins!

The reason mirrored fields are not reliable is that Proof dies were used to mint all the 1856 Flying Eagle, both MS as well as Proofs. These Proof dies were polished and consequently the first coins minted tended to have mirrored fields whether they were manufactured as Proofs on the screw press or manufactured as MS coins on the stream press. As a die was used, the polishing wore away and eventually the fields were no longer mirrored, until the dies were re-polished. So whether or not a coin has mirrored fields really depends on how recently the dies had been polished before the coin was struck and not whether the coin was made as MS or Proof.

Furthermore, we can clearly see with the coins examined in this study that mirrored fields are unreliable and will lead to obvious MS coins misattributed as Proofs. A good example is the following coin (identified by its PCGS cert in the table: 40323017) shown below:



***Finest MS Snow-3
Attributed PR67+ PCGS (CAC)***

When this coin was auctioned recently (Heritage - 2020 Sept 17 - Lot #10008) the videos of both obverse and reverse (still available online at the time of this writing) showed the coin in various angles, clearly demonstrating its mirrored fields. Also, the auction description mentioned: "...flashy, prooflike fields". However, the weakness of the strike on the eagle breast feathers, along with the almost complete lack of details on the leaves, clearly demonstrates this coin cannot possibly be a Proof. In addition to this coin, several other coins in this study have mirrored fields (based upon their auction descriptions) and yet

they have at least moderate weakness of strike, clearly demonstrating that they cannot possibly be Proofs (the coins are indexed in the table by these PCGS IDs): 40323017, 15731123, 05860097, 04243027, 04021230, 60123970. It's important to note here that we're not saying the weakness of strike must be at least moderate for a coin to be MS, but we are trying to make our argument conservative by only considering coins with at least moderate weakness of strike. Even with this conservative argument, we have 6 coins which are clearly MS and yet they have Mirrored fields, clearly demonstrating we can't rely upon Mirrored fields as a diagnostic to indicate Proof.

Ignore the Wire Rims too

Wire rims are also often cited as evidence a coin is a Proof. While many Proofs have wire rims, so do many MS coins. In the study, we found quite a few coins which have wire rims (as shown clearly in the photos of their PCGS certs and/or mentioned in their auction description) and yet they cannot possibly be Proofs because they have at least moderate weakness of strike (the coins are indexed in the table by these PCGS IDs and one NGC ID): 40323017, 15731123, 38725097, 26636003, 05860097, 15612680, 25094241, 28471005, 07265542, 06571598, 3811645-001. Once again, we are not saying that a coin has to have at least moderate weakness of strike to be MS, but we are doing that to make our argument conservative, just as we did for the case of Mirrored fields. Even with this conservative argument we have 11 clear MS coins which have wire rims strongly demonstrating that Wire rims cannot be used as a diagnostic to indicate a coin is a Proof.

Strike Doubling reliable, but not always applicable

Strike doubling (typically seen as a slightly off-set double image of each of the 4 digits of the date) is known to be a reliable indication that any 1856 Flying Eagle exhibiting it must be MS. The reason is that the doubling can only happen with the steam press used to make MS coins. Strike doubling cannot happen with the screw press used to make Proofs. The reliability of strike doubling is confirmed in this study and all but one of the coins which exhibits strike doubling (clearly seen on either cert photos or auction photos and also

often mentioned in the auction descriptions) exhibits at least moderate weakness of strike: 03736818 (moderate), 15612680 (extreme), 22111132 (extreme), 60123970 (extreme), 25094241 (extreme), 21815598 (extreme), 06571598 (extreme), 21760921 (moderate), 34844137 (slight).

Although strike doubling is a reliable indication that a coin is MS, not all MS coins have strike doubling, so this diagnostic is not always applicable. Also, even when it is applicable, the weakness of strike is typically also extreme or at least moderate, so strike doubling doesn't really get you much more than what you already get with weakness of strike. Nevertheless, there is no need to ignore strike doubling either, so if you see it you can safely conclude the Snow-3 is MS.

Weakness of Strike

The remaining diagnostic is weakness of strike. We have already used it when it is at least moderate to provide a compelling argument that Mirrored Fields and Wire Rims are not reliable diagnostics of Proofs. Any weakness of strike provides evidence that a 1856 Flying Eagle isn't a Proof. But many Snow-3s exhibit only slight weakness of strike, and so it is necessary to look carefully at a detailed high resolution photo to detect the weakness. Also, it is helpful to compare such photos to photos of Snow-9s that are known to be Proofs. We used the following Snow-9s for such comparisons: 41473200, 42472277 (this one especially useful for evaluating darker coins), and 31986427. The following Snow-9 particularly demonstrates what a full strike only possible with a Proof looks like:



A Snow-9

used for evaluating weakness of strike - a clear Proof

Strike weakness is typically seen as incompleteness of eagle's breast feathers, lack of detail in feathers of the eagle's wing tips, lack of details in veins of leaves, rounding of edges of leaves, or weakness of lettering.

Some Snow-3s show an extreme weakness of strike, such as the following example (15612680) from the study (note in particular that the eagle's head is almost obliterated), and it is immediately obvious they are MS coins.



***A MS Snow-3 with Extreme weakness of strike:
15612680 MS63 PCGS***

Many coins in the study exhibited moderate weakness of strike, such as the first coin shown in this article (40323017), and even with only moderate weakness of strike (as opposed to extreme weakness of strike) it is still easy to see the weakness. Another example of a Snow-3 with moderate weakness of strike is 15731123. From even a casual inspection the weakness in the Eagle's breast feather and the lack of details in the veins of the leaves is obvious. Once again, a clear and obvious MS coin.



***A MS Snow-3 with Moderate weakness of strike:
PR66+ PCGS (CAC)***

However, many coins exhibit only slight weakness of strike, and so very careful comparison with the Snow-9 examples may be necessary to see the weakness of strike. A good example of a coin with only slight weakness of strike is 40959199.



***A MS Snow-3 with Slight weakness of strike,
but attributed PR65+ PCGS***

With this particular coin you can see a lack of detail separating the feathers of the edge of the eagle's right wing, and that detail is not missing with any of the Snow-9s used as references of full strike. There is also an additional lack of detail in the feathers of the eagle's right wing and on the reverse there is some lack of detail in the leaves (but not much!).

Another coin exhibiting a slight weakness of strike is 09951010. The auction notes (Heritage - 2010 Aug - Lot #3035) point out the weakness of strike:

"The present coin, while certainly sharp in overall detail, exhibits a little softness of strike over the eagle's breast feathers. In addition, the reverse devices, particularly the cotton leaves in the wreath, have rounded edges."

In high resolution photos it is at least possible to see the weakness of strike mentioned about the cotton leaves, but we were not able to see from the high resolution photos the weakness on the eagle's breast feathers indicated in the auction notes, so that might require direct visual inspection of the actual coin.



***A MS Snow-3 with Slight weakness of strike,
MS65 PCGS (CAC)***

It's not surprising that the one Snow-3, the "Bluebird", that all experts agree is a Proof exhibits absolutely no weakness of strike. We have also inspected the coin directly and cannot find any weakness of strike, even when comparing it closely with the Snow-9s used as references in this study.



***The "Bluebird"
The only Snow-3 all experts agree is a Proof
PR66 (PCGS) CAC***

The "Bluebird" is an early die state Snow-3, so it was made during the original striking period before all the MS Snow-3s were minted. In this early die state the dies were fully polished and capable of creating the intense mirrored fields that the "Bluebird" displays. The "Bluebird" also has a wire rim. But both of these diagnostics (mirrored fields and wire rims), as we've already seen, are unreliable. It is really the complete lack of any weakness of strike, especially after making comparisons with the reference Snow-9s mentioned earlier, that fully demonstrates that it is a Proof.

Another Snow-3 Proof besides the "Bluebird"? There is only one other coin for which we could not find any weakness of strike, at least from inspecting high resolution photos: (identified in the table by its no longer valid NGC cert): 2046442-016.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

***Snow-3 Proof?
2046442-016 PF65 NGC - Obverse***



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

***Snow-3 Proof?
2046442-016 PF65 NGC - Reverse***

Could this coin be another Snow-3 Proof besides the "Bluebird"? It certainly seems possible, but since we have not seen the coin directly, it is still possible that direct visual inspection of the coin may reveal very slight weakness of strike, for which we would then have to conclude it must be an MS coin, albeit a very well struck one!

Until we have examined this coin directly, we will not know whether high resolution photos are sufficient for detecting weakness of strike. In the meantime, if you examine a high resolution photo of a Snow-3 there are two possibilities:

If you detect any weakness of strike, even slight, rest assured it is an MS coin.

If you cannot detect any weakness of strike (and it is not the “Bluebird”) it’s best to wait to make any conclusions until you have examined the coin directly.

Either way, it looks like visual evaluation of weakness of strike should allow someone to determine reliably whether a Snow-3 is MS or Proof, and the only question at this point is whether it’s necessary to check the coin directly if no weakness of strike can be seen in high resolution photos.

Also Applicable to other Die Pairs

With the exception of the Snow-10, for which there is only one example, all other die pairs were only used to make Proofs: Snow-1, Snow2, Snow-4, Snow-5, Snow-9. We have never seen any example of any of these that exhibit any weakness of strike whatsoever. Therefore, we conclude that weakness of strike provides in general a reliable diagnostic that can be used for all die pairs of 1856 Flying Eagle.

Incidentally, in going through the various auctions of MS coins (to find Snow-3s) we came across many Snow-9s. Before even seeing the auction notes that identified them as Snow-9s, they stood out for their complete lack of any weakness of strike. The Snow-9s were made in such great numbers and the dies were rarely polished. Consequently, few Snow-9s display Mirrored Fields. That likely explains why so many of them got misattributed as MS coins. But, they are Proofs, not MS coins, and even more importantly they are restrikes not originals!

Key Point

The key point to make here is the one that Rick Snow has been making for years. You simply can’t grade each 1856 Flying Eagle in isolation. By looking at multiple (44 in this study) Snow-3s it has been possible to infer that Mirrored Fields and Wire Rims cannot be relied upon. Once you eliminate the unreliable diagnostics, it’s fairly straightforward to figure out which ones are MS and which ones are Proofs.

Table Summarizing this Study

The table below summarizes the results of this study of 44 Snow-3s. For convenience, so that hyperlinks can be followed to auctions and certs, this table is also available online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8dt2m2>.

1856 Flying Eagle Snow-3: MS or Proof?

Self link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8dt2m2>

Grade	ID	Auction	Strike Weakness	Strike Double	Mirror Fields	Wire Rim
PR67+	40323017	Heritage - 2020 Sept 17 Lot #10008	Moderate	N	Y	Y
PR66+	15731123	Heritage - 2016 Jan 6-11 Lot #5239	Moderate	N	Y	Y
MS66	81467176	None known	Slight	N	?	Y
MS66	09949371 (no photo)	Heritage - 2003 January Lot #4401	Moderate	N	N	?
PR66	38725098 ("Bluebird")	Stack's Bowers - 2019 May Lot #1005	None	N	Y	Y
PR65+	40959199	Heritage - 2020 Oct 14-17 Lot #18035	Slight	N	?	Y
MS65	09951010	Heritage - 2010 Aug Lot #3035	Slight	N	Y	Y
MS65	35805274	Stack's Bowers - 2018 Aug Lot #1061	Slight	N	Y	N
MS65	38725097	Heritage - 2016 Jan 6-11 Lot #5231	Moderate	N	N	Y
MS65	26636003	None known	Moderate	N	?	Y
PR65	05913723 (no photo)	Heritage - 2011 Apr Lot #5025	Slight	N	Y	?
PR65	05860097	Heritage - 2016 Jan 6-11 Lot #5237	Moderate	N	Y	Y
PF65	2046442-016 (invalid)	Heritage - 2014 Nov 14-15 Lot #3162	None	N	Y	Y
PF65	1656353-001 (no photo)	Heritage - 2009 Apr Lot #2056	Slight	N	Y	Y
PF65	1500453-001	Heritage - 2016 Feb 4-7 Lot #3017	Slight	N	N	Y
MS64+	37850123	None known	Slight	N	?	Y
MS64+	38158612	None known	Slight	N	?	Y
MS64	04724939 (no photo)	Goldberg - 2011 Feb Lot #1026	Slight	N	N	?
MS64	05359396 (no photo)	Heritage - 2021 Aug 18-22 Lot #3314	Moderate	N	N	?
MS64	04243027 (invalid)	Stack's Bowers - 2019 May Lot # 1007	Moderate	N	Y	?
MS64	04021230 (no photo)	Kagin's - 2017 Mar Lot #1116	Moderate	N	Y	?
MS64	04765829 (no photo)	Heritage - 2008 Feb Lot #3037	Slight	N	Y	?
MS64	03736818 (no photo)	Heritage - 2003 Feb Lot #5164	Moderate	Y	?	?
PR64	05811622 (no photo)	Heritage - 2019 Oct 17-24 Lot #3015	Slight	N	?	Y
MS63	03288623 (invalid)	Stack's Bowers - 2018 Aug Lot #1062	Moderate	N	?	?
MS63	21300941 (no photo)	Heritage - 2009 Apr Lot #2046	Moderate	N	?	?
MS63	02645409 (no photo)	Heritage - 2001 Aug Lot #5263	Moderate	N	?	?

MS63	15612680	Stack's Bowers - 2011 Aug Lot #7231	Extreme	Y	?	Y
MS63	22111132 (invalid)	Heritage - 2009 Jul Lot #1024	Extreme	Y	?	?
MS63	60123970 (invalid)	Heritage - 2004 Jan Lot #2008	Extreme	Y	Y	?
PR63	25094241	Stack's Bowers - 2012 Aug Lot #11239	Extreme	Y	?	Y
PR63	28471005	Heritage - 2014 Apr Lot #28007	Moderate	N	?	Y
PF63	3258888-001	Heritage - 2014 Sept 4-6 Lot #3016	Moderate	N	?	?
MS62	34143642 (invalid)	Stack's Bowers - 2017 Nov Lot #10014	Slight	N	?	Y
MS62	02750130 (no photo)	Heritage - 2009 May Lot #97	Slight	N	Y	?
MS62	07265542	Heritage - 2006 Oct	Moderate	N	N	Y
MS62	21815598 (no photo)	Heritage - 2006 Jun Lot #189	Extreme	Y	N	?
MS62	06571598	Heritage - 2004 Jul Lot #5108	Extreme	Y	?	Y
PR62	09274280 (no photo)	Heritage - 2018 Dec13-14 Lot #4116	Slight	N	Y	?
MS61	21760921 (invalid)	Goldberg - 2005 Feb Lot #829	Moderate	Y	?	?
PR61	34844137	Heritage - 2019 Jan 9-14 Lot #3938	Slight	Y	?	Y
PR61	35379375	Heritage - 2018 Aug 14-19 Lot #5059	Slight	N	N	Y
PF61	3811645-001	Heritage - 2015 Feb Lot #3013	Moderate	N	N	Y
MS60	2974425 (ANACS)	Heritage - 2007 May Lot #132	Slight	N	?	?

Notes:

- **Strike Weakness** (None, Slight, Moderate, Extreme) - Determined from visual inspection of the cert and/or the auction photos. The following Snow-9 Proofs were used as comparisons for what a proof with full strike should look like: 41473200, 42472277, 31986427. Any strike weakness is typically seen as incompleteness of eagle breast feathers, lack of detail in feathers of eagle wing tips, lack of details in veins of leaves, rounding of edges of leaves, or weakness of lettering. In addition, the auction descriptions often describe any strike weakness.
- **Strike Double** - Determined either from visual inspection of the cert and/or the auction photos. In addition, the auction descriptions often describe strike doubling. This is typically seen as a slightly offset double image of each of the 4 digits of the date.
- **Mirrors** - The auction descriptions often describe the fields with terms to indicate that there are mirrors (e.g. prooflike fields, mirrors) or will indicate a non-prooflike field as satiny. It is not possible to

tell whether the fields have mirrors from the cert photos or the auction photos.

- **Wire Rim** - Determined from visual inspection of the cert or the auction photos or as indicated in the auction description. If the cert has a photo it is usually easy to see whether or not there is a wire rim. However, the auction photos are always of the coin in its holder, and when the only photos are auction photos, it's typically not possible to tell whether or not there is a wire rim

Summary of results of the study (see article for details)

- Mirrors are not a reliable indication of Proof. Quite a few Snow-3s have mirrors and yet they also have clear weakness of strike (at least moderate) and so they cannot be proofs (note the following certs are used as IDs in the table above, though the certs may be invalid): 40323017, 15731123, 05860097, 04243027, 04021230, 60123970
- Wire rims are not a reliable indication of Proof. Quite a few Snow-3s have wire rims and also have clear weakness of strike (at least moderate¹) and so they cannot be proofs (note the following certs are used as IDs in the table above, though the certs may be invalid): 40323017, 15731123, 38725097, 26636003, 05860097, 15612680, 25094241, 28471005, 07265542, 06571598, 3811645-001
- Strike doubling is known to be a clear indication of MS, but not all MS Snow-3s have strike doubling, so strike doubling is only useful when it is present (lack of it does not mean the coin is a Proof).
- Weakness of strike (along with strike doubling if it is present) remains the only reliable indication of MS.
- There are only two Snow-3s which exhibit no weakness of strike (and of course no strike doubling): 38725098 (the "Bluebird") and 2046442-016². These two may be the only Snow-3 Proofs.

¹ Even a slight weakness of strike indicates the coin cannot be a Proof, but we are counting only coins which have at least a moderate weakness of strike as clearly not Proofs to demonstrate in a compelling way that mirrors cannot be used as an indication of Proof.

² Although no weakness of strike can be detected in the high resolution photos available, it is still possible that very slight weakness of strike might be detected when viewing the coin directly. If that eventually happens, then we would have to conclude that the "Bluebird" (which we have viewed directly) is the only Snow-3 Proof.

Statistical Estimate of 1856 Snow-3 and Snow-9 Populations.

By Greg Slaughter

To begin our study, we use the current PCGS population data for MS 1856 Flying Eagle's:

1856 Flying Eagle's Attributed as Mint State (MS) by PCGS:

305

How many of these are actually coins in holders today? I estimate that 20% are broken out of their holders and are still counted in the population.

**1856 Attributed as MS
no longer in PCGS holders:**

$$305 \times 0.2 = 61$$

**1856 Attributed as MS
still in PCGS holders:**

$$305 \times 0.8 = 244$$

In looking at auctions, only 64% of the coins graded MS are actually the Snow-3. If we apply this factor to our estimate, we get:

Snow-3 1856 in MS PCGS holders:

$$244 \times 64\% = 156$$

Let's look at the data from another angle. For the previous article, I did a head-count of the PCGS-graded 1856 Flying Eagle's that were attributed as Snow-3. Here is what I found:

1856 MS Snow-3 Graded MS by PCGS:

26

1856 MS Snow-3 Mis-attributed as PR by PCGS and NGC (Bluebird not listed, as it is not mis-attributed as PR):

16

If we apply this ratio to the surviving population of Snow-3 MS PCGS (156), we get an estimate of the 1856 Snow-3's mis-attributed as PR.

1856 MS Snow-3 graded as PR:

$$(16/26) \times 156 = 96$$

**Total number of MS Snow-3 1856
graded either MS or PR:**

$$96 + 156 = 252$$

**Likely true number of certified 1856
(4/5 of total population)**

$$\text{PCGS MS: } 305 \times 0.8 = 244$$

$$\text{PCGS PR: } 950 \times 0.8 = 760$$

$$\text{NGC PR: } 511 \times 0.8 = 409$$

The PCGS MS number was calculated above. The PCGS PR and NGC PR numbers were calculated off their population report.

How many graded 1856 Flying Eagles are there? If we take 80% of the population totals by PCGS and NGC we can get an estimate of all graded examples still in holders:

Total 1856 graded by PCGS and NGC
PCGS MS: 308 X 80% 244
PCGS PR: 950 X 80% 760
NGC: 511 X 80% 409
Total1,413

There are some special strikes that get into the data, so we need to eliminate them.

Snow-1:10 Proofs
Snow-2:6 Proofs
Snow-3:1 Proof (Bluebird)
Snow-4:10 Proofs
Snow-5:14 Proofs
Total41 Proofs, not Snow-9

We now need to subtract the MS Snow-3 total pieces (from the previous page - 252). The remaining coins would be the Snow-9 Proofs.

**Total 1856 Proof Snow-9
 graded by PCGS and NGC**

1413 - 41 - 252 = 1,120

The statistics bear out the following survival of
 1856 Flying Eagles Snow-3 and Snow-9
 Certified by PCGS and NGC

Snow-3 MS: ... 252
Snow-3 PR: ... 1 (Bluebird)
Snow-9 PR: ... 1,120

Original distribution

According to Walter Breen's recital of letters in the National Archives regarding the initial distribution of 1856 cents, the following coins were distributed in 1856 and early 1857.

Treasury Secretary Guthrie:2
President Franklin Pierce:4
Rep. S.D. Campbell (Feb 2, 1857): .200
Treas. Sec. Guthrie (Feb 4, 1857): ..100
The Senate:62
The House of Representatives:264
The Mint Cabinet collection:2

Total634

Summary

We assume that the original distribution included some Proof die trials. The larger striking run were distributed to Congress. These are the MS Snow-3, struck under regular production methods as Congress needed to see actual production quality coins. That mintage of these is likely 626. We calculated the certified survivors of the MS Snow-3 as 252. There are likely an equal number of cleaned and ungradable coins, so the total survivors is around 500 pieces.

The Proof Snow-9 in certified holders number 1,120. These were struck for sale to collectors in Proof format. This is a fairly large mintage for Proof production. Those not sold were released into circulation. The existence of circulated pieces has confused many into thinking they were struck as MS coins.

If the number of ungraded Snow-9 Proofs survived at the same rate as the MS Snow-3, then there are likely 2,250 in existence. From this we can guess that the Mint struck 2,500 examples of the Snow-9.

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The 1856 Pointed U Obverse Die

By Richard Snow

One of the more mysterious dies used to strike 1856 Flying Eagle cents is the “Pointed U” obverse die. Overall, this obverse die makes up only about 2% of all 1856 Flying Eagle cents struck. It is paired with a number of different dies - High Leaves, Low Leaves, and the Ornamental Shield pattern die.

The name “Pointed U” comes from a small die line at the base of the U in UNITED. It is too strong to be a die polishing mark. It is not a defect in the engraving process and it look to me to be an on-purpose die marker. The die is distinctive for having the date sunk very shallow. The 1 is sunk slightly deeper and is thus slightly bolder than the other digits.

It is impossible to say for sure when the die was made, but I think it is fair to assume that it was one of the dies made in 1856 for the die

trials. Perhaps the die was singled out as the die for proof die trials and the point on the U was a marker to identify it as such. This is not possible to prove with certainty as there is no documentation for this.

We can only look at the coins struck to trace the dies usage. From it die state we can place the resulting coins in a striking order. From the die pairings we can form a time-line into something that makes sense.

In “The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide” by this author (2014) , this die is listed as 1856 Obv. 2. The date placement is (B) which means that the left edge of the 1 is between two denticles. The description under Snow-5 is as follows:

Obv. 2: (B) Point at base of U. Shallow date with the 1 strongest due to a repunching, which is just visible under the serif of the 1. Open 6.

Much of this was taken from Walter Breen’s study printed in “Walter Breen’s Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof coins, 1722-1977” (1977). His description is as follows:

Obv. 2. Open E’s. Very thin shallow date, open 6; Left base of 1 over r. part of dentil.

The earliest die state is found on the Snow-5 die pair. This die pairing has the reverse with the center dot. Labeled Rev. D, it is identified by a small dot under the upper-left serif of the N in CENT. There is also a very small dot above the N in ONE.



1856 Obverse #2 - The Pointed U die



1856 Snow-5: Pointed U / Center dot

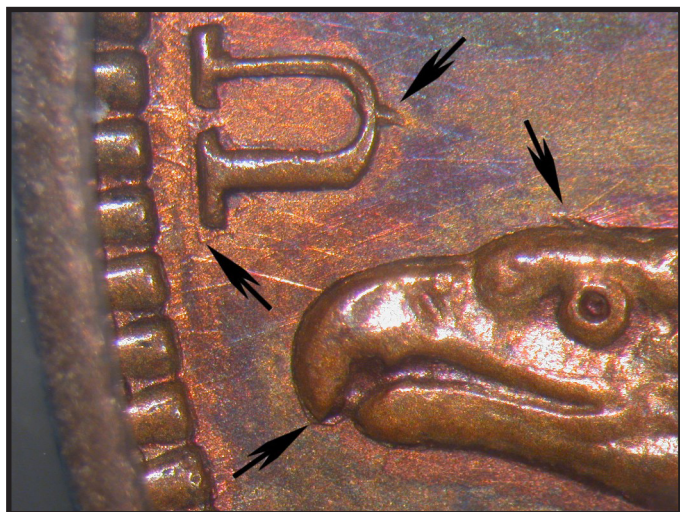
On this die state of the Pointed U obverse there is repunching above the 1 and extra outlines around the U in UNITED as well as below the eagle's beak. A small die flaw is visible above the eagle's head. The point at the base of the U is obvious and bold. The copper die trial of this die pair (Snow-5b, J-181) is a slightly earlier die state showing more roughness between the U and the denticles.

At least 15 examples of the Snow-5 were struck in proof format. They typically have very good mirrors with strong die striations. The finest is graded MS-66 by PCGS and is from the Alan Epstein collection. All others are graded Proof. There are 5 examples known of Snow-5b, the copper planchet striking, the finest being PR-65BN from the Wright Flyer collection.

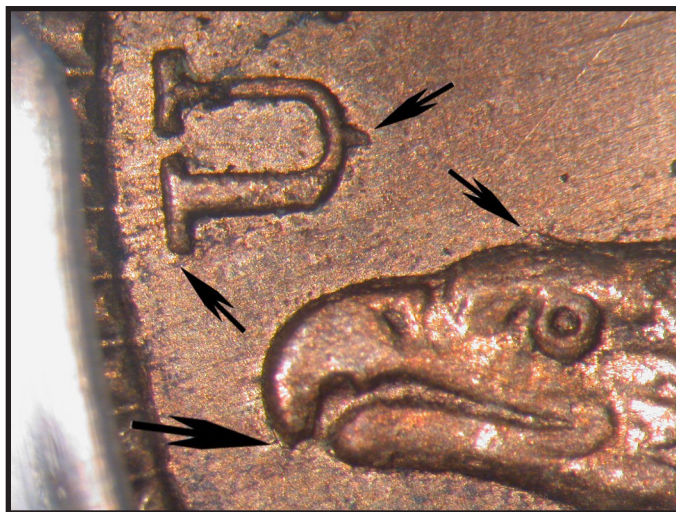
If the die was made in 1856, as I believe it was, then the Snow-5 is the original proof strike. These were likely made for presentation given the high quality and low mintage.



Snow-5: Repunched 1



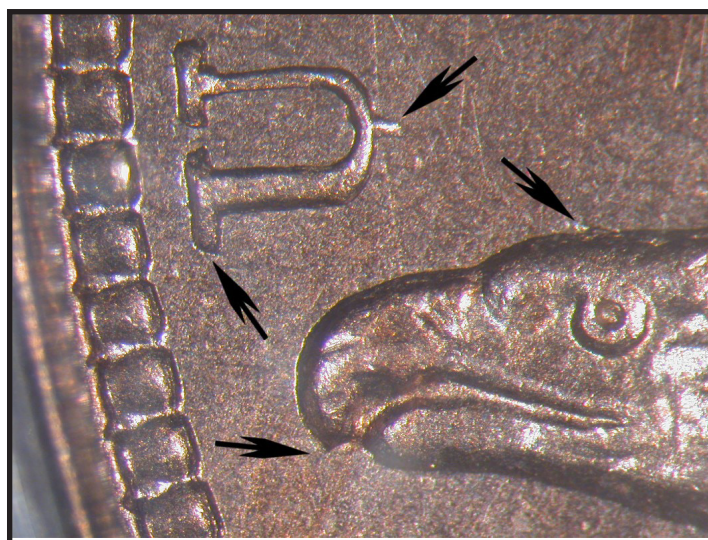
Snow-5b (J-181): Copper striking



Snow-5: Pointed U

The next die state is found on the Snow-2 which is a very rare die pairing. The reverse is also found on some of the 1857 proof issues, possibly dating this die pairing to being struck in that year. The dies are aligned so that the eagle is soaring upwards when turned on its horizontal axis.

The die state found here has the extra outlines on the beak just visible, but nearly polished away. The extra outlines on the U are gone. The die flaw over the eagle's head is smaller. The point on the U is still bold. There are only six examples traced and although



Snow-2: Pointed U



1856 Snow-2: Pointed U / High Leaves

The next die state is found on the Snow-4 which is a very scarce die pairing. The reverse is the Low Leaves design which was not made until 1858. The Low Leaf die could have been considered a pattern at the time of the striking, but since it was put into use the same year, it is not cataloged as a pattern die. It was also used to strike some of the 1858 Small Letters Proofs.

The die state found here has no extra outlines on the beak or on the U. The die flaw over the eagle's head is almost gone. The point on the U is still bold. There are only ten examples traced.



Snow-4: Pointed U



1856 Snow-4: Pointed U / Low Leaves



1856 Snow-PT1, J-184: Pointed U / Ornamented Shield

Also found with this die state is the die pairing with the Ornamental Shield reverse (Snow-PT1, J-184). This is another die known to have been produced in 1858. Only seven examples are traced. Two different reverse dies used in the 1858 cent patterns series are found paired with this obverse.

There are also very rare examples in copper (Snow-PT1b, J-185) of which three are traced.

The latest dies state is found again on the Snow-4 die pair, but in alloys of 25% nickel (Snow-4d, J-183) and bronze (Snow-4c, J-182). These have a die flaw that develops under the date. There are four examples traced of the 25% nickel pieces and the bronze example is unique.

It is clear that this was a special die, possibly marked with a secret mark to identify it was such. It was likely made in 1856, used to strike copper die trial and proof presentation pieces. In 1857 and 1858 it was used again to strike limited numbers of proofs using dies at hand along with a few more copper pieces.



Snow-4c, J-183: Die flaw under 5

The last usage was for a very small group of metallurgical tests. These could have been struck much later than 1858.

This obverse die is very important for dating the emissions of the 1856 Flying Eagle cents. Below is a chart of the coins struck from this obverse in the die state order.

Striking order for the Pointed U die pairs.

Die pair	Number known	When struck	Purpose	Format
Snow-5b J-181	5	Late 1856	Die trial	Proof
Snow-5	15	Late 1856	Presentation	Proof
Snow-2	6	1857	Presentation	Proof
Snow-4 Low Leaves	10	1858	Pattern	Proof
Snow-PT1b J-185	3	1858	Die Trial	Proof
Snow-PT1 J-184	7	1858	Pattern	Proof
Snow-4c J-182	1	1858 or later	Metallurgical Trial	Proof
Snow-4d J-183	4	1858 or later	Metallurgical Trial	Proof

1865 Fancy 5



S10 1865 Fancy 5, Die file marks.

Obv. 22: (LE) Bold die file marks visible in feathers 7 though 9. Other die file marks by the ear.

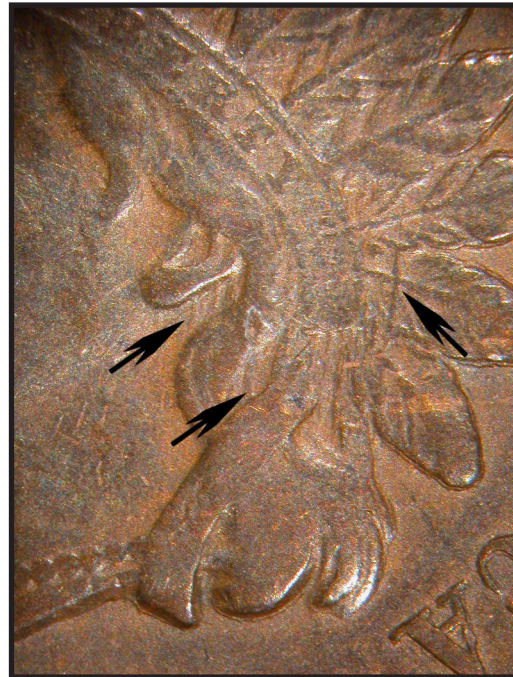
Rev. AN: Heavy die deformation from the base of the T in CENT to the rim at 5:30. The field is higher to the right.

Attributed to: David Killough

Die file marks can be interesting if they are bold.
The reverse die deformation is very bold. The initial listing of S10 was found to be a duplicate entry of S9. {30}



S10 1865 Fancy 5, Reverse Die deformation.



S10 1865 Fancy 5, Die File Marks.



S10 1865 Fancy 5, Date Area.

1865 Fancy 5



S12 1865 Fancy 5, 8/8 (w), 5/5 (s).

S12 1865 Fancy 5, 8/8 (w), 5/5 (s). 5/4 Digit Punch.

Obv. 23: (LE) Repunching inside the loops of the 8. A small remnant of repunching is visible under the flag of the 5. The 5/4 digit punch. This is also found on 1865 Fancy 5 S1.

Rev. AO: Die deformation from the ribbon tip to the denticles at 6:30. The field to the left is raised. Die cracks from the wreath to the denticles at 11:30, 2:30 and 5:00. Horizontal die line to the left of the base of the shield.

Attributed to: David Killough

Another example of the 5/4 digit punch. It is given its own variety number because it is a repunched date as well. The original listing of this variety was found to be a duplicate of S9. {40}

1886 Type 1

S10 1886 Type 1, 1/1 (w).

Large 6 over Small 6 Digit Punch.

Obv. 16 (B) Repunching on the base of the 1 visible as a small dot. Comma-shaped die chip below the bust is connected to the bust by die cracks on both sides. Die crack connects the tops of AMER. Punch defect seen on 1886 T1 S4 varieties.

Rev. AI: Olive leaf and shield point connected to the denticles. Die crack from the denticles at 8:00 to the left most olive leaf to the tip of the ribbon end.

Attributed to: Ed Nathanson

The date is positioned with the 1 directly under the bust point. The Large 6 over a Small 6 is a digit punch defect and can be seen on multiple dies. Compare with S4a. {64RB}



*S10 1886 Type 1, 1/1 (w).
Large 6 over Small 6 Digit Punch.*

1889

S45 1889, 9/9 (n).

Obv. 46: (RH) Repunching on the 9 visible mostly inside the upper loop.

Rev. AV: Right shield point and olive leaf firmly connected to the denticles. Left shield point just away.

Attributed to: Ed Nathanson

Fairly bold repunching. Compare date position with S8. {55}



S45 1889, 9/9 (n).

1896



S36 1896, 9/9 (n).

Obv. 40: (C) Minor repunching visible in the lower loop of the 9. The bottom loop of the 6 is filled.

Rev. AJ: Right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point and olive leaf just away.

Attributed to: Ed Nathanson

Minor repunching. The area above the repunching is filled. {58}

S36 1896, 9/9 (n).

1907

S73 1907, 0/0 (n), 007 in denticles.

Obv. 75: (LH) Minor repunching visible inside the 0 at the base. Two bold O digits in the denticles below the left side of the 0 in the date. The top of a 7 is also boldly visible in the denticles below the flag of the 7 in the date.

Rev. BR: Shield points and olive leaf connected to the denticles.

Attributed to: Tom Miller

One of the boldest misplaced digits yet found.
MPD-008.{40}



S73 1907, 0/0 (n), 007 denticles.



S74 1907, 90/90 (s), 9/9 (n).

S74 1907, 90/90 (s), 9/9 (n).

Obv. 76: (LH) Bold repunching visible under the upper loop and under the base of the 9. Bold repunching under the 0 at the base. Additional repunching inside the upper loop of the 9 at the base of the loop.

Rev. BS: Right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point just away. Olive leaf well away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Tom Miller

Very obvious repunching. Must be scarce since it evaded attribution all this time. {35}

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